

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 071148Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1926

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12145

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PFOR ET US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT

REF: STATE 296997

1. I AM ONCE AGAIN RECEIVING CONFLICTING SIGNALS RE PEACE
CORPS INTENTIONS IN ETHIOPIA, AND WILL NEED FURTHER
CLARIFICATION BEFORE I CAN CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL.

2. I HAVE JUST POUCHED LETTER TO POST (AF/E) WHICH I
UNDERSTAND MAY NOT REACH DEPT FOR ANOTHER TEN DAYS
RELATING ESSENCE OF CONVERSATION HELD IN ROME DEC 3
BETWEEN OUR PC DIRECTOR BIGELOW AND FRANK WILLIAMS, PC
REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA. MEETING WAS CALLED AT
WILLIAMS' REQUEST . AS BIGELOW UNDERSTOOD CONVERSATION
AND REPORTED TO ME ON HIS RETURN DEC 6, WILLIAMS AT
LEAST BELIEVES THAT PC MAY NOW DECIDE TO A) KEEP TWO
PCVS IN ETHIOPIA APPARENTLY UNTIL THEIR ASSIGNMENTS
ARE OVER IN LATE 1977 AND SOMETIME IN 1978, B) TRANSFER
BIGELOW TO NAIROBI WHERE HE CAN OVERSEE WHAT REMAINS
OF PC OPERATION HERE, C) KEEP PC OFFICE HERE OPEN,
MANNED BY TWO FSLs AT PC'S EXPENSE. I CHOSE LETTER
ROUTE TO INFORM POST BECAUSE OF WAY INFO WAS
TRANSMITTED TO US AND FACT THAT AS DEPT AWARE , PC
HAS NEVER PROVIDED "FURTHER GUIDANCE" PROMISED PARA 8,
STATE 281201, NOR REPLIED TO OUR 11936. WILLIAMS
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CONVERSATION WAS APPARENTLY INTENDED IN LIEU OF BOTH,

BUT WE DO NOT KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT HE WAS REFLECTING HIS AGENCY'S POSITION OR PUTTING US ON NOTICE THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN THE WIND THAT REQUIRED SOME FURTHER ACTION ON HIS PART ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON O/A DEC 18, AT WHICH TIME HE TOLD BIGELOW HE PLANNED TO DISCUSS WHOLE MATTER WITH POST.

3. REFTEL AKES IT IMPERATIVE THAT DEPT BE AWARE OF BIGELOW/WILLIAMS CONVERSATION NOW. OBVIOUSLY IF PC IS GOING TO LEAVE TWO PCV'S HERE, THEY ARE NOT WITHDRAWING FROM ETHIOPIA AND SCENARIO REFTEL AND STATE 281201 WILL RAMAIN AS I HAVE INDICATED EARLIER. IF THEY DO SO, I WOULD THINK IT BEST NOT TO METNION WITHDRAWAL AT ALL TO EPMG. AT MOST WE MIGHT HAVE TO TELL THEM WHEN BIGELOW LEAVES PRESUMABLY SOMETIME IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY THAT WE HAVE CUT BACK PROGRAM BECAUSE OF REASONS GIVEN PARA 5, STATE 281201, BUT CONTINUED PRESENCE OF TWO PCVS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT PULLING OUT. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, PMAC COULD GO AHEAD WITH RECONSIDERATION OF POSITION ON GODLEY (ASSUMING THEY WILL RECONSIDER IT) WITHOUT HAVING TO SPECUALTE ON MEANING OR RELATION IN BILATERAL TERMS OF PC ACTIVITIES AND GODLEY APPOINTMENT. ALTERNATIVELY, WE COULD TELL EPMG NOW ABOUT CUTBACK IN LOW-KEY WAY TO AVOID ANY LATER ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT WE HAVE BEE PLAYING SOME KIND OF GAME PERHAPS USING MODIFIED VERSION OF PARA 2 REFTEL. WHILE I WOULD NOT WANT TO HAZARD MUCH OF A GUESS, EPMG MIGHT SEE CUTBACK IN SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TERMS FROM WITHDRAWAL, WITH OUTSIDE CHANCE THAT THEY MIGHT NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR LINK BETWEEN DECISION TO CUT BACK AND BODLEY APPOINTMENT AT ALL.

4. KEY IS PC. IF THERE IS HALF-FORMULATED INCLINATION TO KEEP PCVS ON, I WOULD HOPE IT COULD BE ENCOURAGED. ON OTHER AND IF KEY TO THAT DECISION IS WILLIAMS WHO IS NOT THERE, DEPT MAY WISH CONSIDER DEFERRING INQUIRY UNTIL HIS RETURN TO AVOID RISK THAT INQUIRY NOW WILL ONLY RESULT IN REITERATION OF PREVIOUS PC DECISION, WHICH I GATHER FROM BIGELOW'S CONVERSATION IS REAL CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBILITY SINCE WILLIAMS TOLD US THAT IF ASKED POINT BLANK NOW, PC MIGHT WELL SIMPLY RESTATE WITHDRAWAL DECISION.

5. REGRET ERROR IN MY 12081 (PARA 3 REFTEL). REFERENCE OF COURSE SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO STATE 281201. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, I HAVE FELT IT DESIRABLE TO INFORM BIGELOW ON CLOSE HOLD BASIS OF GENERAL PROBLEM SO AS

BE ABLE OBTAIN BEST ADVISE HE CAN GIVE ME.
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